

Health Consultation

B J CARNEY POLE YARD

MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

CERCLIS NO. MND981195167

NOVEMBER 28, 1997

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia

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Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

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HEALTH CONSULTATION

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MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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Prepared by:

Minnesota Department of Health
Under Cooperative Agreement with the
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Background and Statement of Issues

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently completed a Minnesota Decision Document (MDD), which presents the selected remedial action and clean-up levels for the B.J. Carney Company site (Site) in Minneapolis, MN. A copy of that document was provided to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). This consultation presents the rationale behind the concurrence of MDH with the actions outlined in the MDD.

A previous Public Health Consultation was prepared by MDH in August, 1994. The 1994 Consultation contained a description of the Site along with a list of chemicals of concern, exposure pathways, and toxic properties of materials found on the Site. Site-specific information and contamination data used to prepare this consultation were obtained from previous site investigations, a brief site visit, and the MDD.

Proposed Remedy

Phase I of the RI in 1993 found PAHs, phenols, and tentatively identified hydrocarbons in the groundwater under the Site. In addition, contaminants have been identified in on-site soil. Phase II of the RI was completed in 1995. A "Natural Attenuation Study" for the groundwater and a Risk Assessment for the entire Site were both completed in 1996. Based on this information, a Focused Feasibility Study was completed in April, 1997. Soil cleanup levels were developed based on a recreational or industrial exposure scenario (depending on final land use). Soil exposures were based on contamination being "accessible" (e.g. 0 - 4 feet below grade), "potentially accessible" (e.g. 4 - 12 feet below grade), or "remotely accessible" (> 12 feet below grade).

A well search conducted during the remedial investigation found water supply wells in the vicinity of the Site. However, contaminants were not currently shown to be reaching these wells. Groundwater cleanup goals are based on MDH Health Risk Limits (HRLs).

These investigations formed the basis for the development of four specific response action objectives:

- 1) Minimize or eliminate the potential for human or ecological exposure to contaminated soils.
- 2) Effectively reduce or eliminate contaminant leaching to groundwater from existing source area soils at the Site.
- 3) Demonstrate that the contaminant plume is stable or shrinking and off-Site impacts to drinking water or surface water receptors are unlikely.

- 4) Facilitate productive use of the impacted properties consistent with property owner and local community needs and desires.

To meet these objectives, a remedial action alternative was developed which included the excavation of soils and debris between 0 and 4 feet below grade and placement into an off-Site subtitle C landfill, passive bioremediation of remaining contaminated soils and debris, and natural attenuation and long-term monitoring of contaminated groundwater. In addition, land use restrictions will be implemented to limit residential development on areas where low levels of contamination remain and prevent use of contaminated groundwater as a drinking water source. A detailed description of these actions is presented in the MDD.

Site Visit

On August 4, 1997, Dan Symonik of MDH visited the Site. Briefly, the following were noted:

- It was a sunny morning, with light breezes and temperatures in the high 70's. There was minimal activity in the general area, which is known as the "Victory Neighborhood". The "Airlift Doors" irrigation installation company is located directly adjacent to the site on the corner of Osseo Rd. and 47th St. The site is also just a few blocks from the border with Brooklyn Center and from a small lake. The multi-line railroad tracks continue to be heavily used, with cars constantly moving back and forth. The general area around the Site appears almost unchanged from what was observed during a site visit in 1994.
- The Site itself appears much more open and cleared than in 1994. The grass in the pole treating area has been cut, there were no small trees growing in open spaces, the rail spur appears to have been removed, and several new monitoring wells were visible. However, there is still some small debris visible (e.g. old tires, tree branches, litter along fence line), and a pile of broken concrete along the southern edge. There are several barrels covered by plastic tarps in the northern edge of the Site.
- There is a new chain link fence with 3 strands of barbed wire along Osseo Rd. which restricts access (in 1994 there was free access from this location). The fence line along 47th St. and Russell Ave appears intact, with no indication that trespassing is occurring by the public. There are "No Trespassing" signs visible on the fence.

Discussion

Public Health Issues

The 1994 Public Health Consultation presented pathways of exposure to Site-related contaminants of concern. They were based upon an exposure scenario which includes limited use of the area by nearby residents (e.g. trespassing), and the continued use of municipal water by residents around the Site, and included:

- Direct skin contact with contaminated soil by trespassers or on-site workers;
- Incidental ingestion of contaminated soil or dust by trespassers or on-site workers; and
- Future ingestion of contaminated groundwater from a well that could be developed in the shallow aquifer under or down gradient of the Site (there are no current known complete groundwater exposure pathways; however, the absence of private wells in the area still needs to be confirmed).

In addition, the 1994 Consultation by MDH recommended additional characterization of the groundwater and soil in and around the Site, conducting a private well search in the surrounding neighborhood, restricting access to the Site, and communicating general Site status and risks to the local community.

The completed remedial investigation and proposed remedial action for the Site address each of these exposure pathways and recommendations. The remedial investigation involved additional characterization of Site conditions, a private well search, and construction of a secure fence around the main access points to the Site. Separate community relations efforts were conducted to gather community input and disseminate information on the Site. The remedial action, when completed, will address direct contact concerns by removing surface contamination and groundwater concerns by monitoring to ensure that contamination does not move down gradient. In addition, future land use will be controlled by environmental restrictive covenants.

Conclusions

1. The B.J. Carney Company operated a wood treating plant on property in northwest Minneapolis. The soil and groundwater on the Site are contaminated with PAHs (both carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic), PCP, and low levels of dioxins.
2. Previous MDH recommendations included additional characterization of the groundwater and soil in and around the Site, conducting a private well search in the surrounding neighborhood, restricting access to the Site, and communicating general Site status and risks to the local community. The remedial investigation and community relations efforts have addressed these issues.
3. Exposure pathways which are of potential concern include: 1) Direct skin contact with contaminated soils by trespassers or on-site workers; 2) Incidental ingestion of contaminated soils by trespassers or on-site workers; and 3) Ingestion of PCP-contaminated groundwater from a shallow-aquifer well at the Site, currently or in the future. The proposed remedial action and associated restrictive covenants address each of these pathways.

Recommendations

The proposed remedial action, if implemented completely, should act to protect public health. Therefore MDH recommends that MPCA proceed with the activities as outlined in the 1997 MDD.

Information about the Site should be disseminated to the surrounding community to be sure that individuals are aware of potential risks. MDH will cooperate with MPCA in coordinating this effort.

References


- 1) MPCA, *Minnesota Decision Document*, July 16, 1997
- 2) MDH, Memo to Site File, *Site Visit to Support ROD Review*, August 4, 1997.
- 3) MDH, *Public Health Consultation for the B.J. Carney Company Site*, August 26, 1994.

Report Prepared by:


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CERTIFICATION

The B. J. Carney Company Health Consultation was prepared by the Minnesota Department of Health under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR). It is in accordance with approved methodology and procedures existing at the time the health consultation was initiated.


Technical Project Officer, SPS, SSAB, DHAC

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, has reviewed this health consultation and concurs with its findings.


for Chief, SPS, SSAB, DHAC, ATSDR